

**TWENTY-FOURTH REGULAR SESSION**  
**October 26-30**  
**Tegucigalpa, Honduras**

**OEA/Ser.L/XIV.2.24**  
**CICAD/doc.991/98**  
**16 October 1998**  
**Original: Spanish**

**REMARKS MADE AT THE OPENING SESSION**  
**BY THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT**  
**OF CICAD**  
**GENERAL ENRIQUE ASTETE BACA, OF PERU**

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PRESIDENT OF CICAD, GENERAL ENRIQUE ASTETE BACA, OF PERU**

We gather today in this beautiful city, surrounded by impressive hills and our warm-hearted hosts to forge ahead with the task we set ourselves years ago of confronting drug-trafficking. That enterprise would never have prospered without the cooperation and effort that each of us has contributed.

I thank the Government of Honduras for inviting us and for the warm welcome extended to us in this fine city. And I thank you for attending and taking part in this meeting, thereby enabling us to continue with our unending task.

The start of the twenty-fourth regular session of the Inter-American Commission for Drug Abuse Control marks the end of the mandate conferred upon me to chair CICAD's work for eighteen exceptional months.

Over the past three years, CICAD has witnessed the increasing importance of its work in the Americas, as we sought to give shape to our philosophy of believing firmly that we live and move as a single, hemispheric, historical, spiritual and indivisible whole in our efforts to confront one of the social scourges that does most to undermine our very fabric, gravely endangering generations to come.

The efforts made to devise an anti-drug strategy in the hemisphere; the model regulations against money laundering; work done on the diversion of precursor chemical substances; and the task recently entrusted to us of preparing a mechanism for evaluation and cooperation are, furthermore, signs of the undoubtedly vast importance of multilateralism if we are successfully to tackle the illicit consumption of psychoactive substances in the Americas and the Caribbean.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the professional staff of CICAD for the extraordinary support they gave me during the time I presided over the Commission and which today draws to a close. Likewise, and with particular fervor, I should like to thank Mr DAVID BEALL, for his tireless and sound help in fulfilling the difficult and highly responsible task entrusted to me.

I am fully convinced that with your presence, and thanks to all the work you have done, we have managed to come a long way on the common path towards fulfilling the mission for which we were convened by our governments.

In a few moments, as the statutes command, this meeting will proceed to elect its new officers. I wish them every success in their endeavors and avail myself of this opportunity to express, once again, my most heartfelt thanks.